

Testimony to the CASAC Ozone Review Panel regarding the Second Draft Ozone Integrated Science Assessment

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Good morning, and thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

Today, on behalf of our 1.4 million members and supporters, I ask this committee to allow EPA to move forward in announcing standards that are protective of public and environmental health and not impede progress by conducting a third draft Integrated Science Assessment. This committee has previously recommended – unanimously – decreasing the primary standard to within the range of 0.060 to 0.070ppm. As this committee wrote to the previous Administration, setting the primary standard above this range “fails to satisfy the explicit stipulations of the Clean Air Act that you ensure an adequate margin of safety for all individuals, including sensitive populations.” (CASAC letter April 7, 2008)

We know that ozone pollution is a very real health hazard that threatens American prosperity and livelihood. This committee and the current Administration have clearly stated an understanding that the current standard is not protective of public health, and so it is time to end the cycle of delay and move forward with this process. A third draft of the Integrated Science Assessment is not needed.

Americans deserve clean air and they deserve to know what level of ozone pollution is dangerous to our children and families. So that we can protect ourselves and our communities, we need this committee to move forward. Additionally, industry leaders and utilities need certainty so that they can adequately plan for the future.

I would like to thank the committee for their good work to date in providing the best scientific review possible on our national ozone standard. Again, we strongly urge you to move forward quickly. More delay at this stage, when the science is so clear, only sets the stage for more delays in the future. When it comes to clean air and public health, Americans deserve better than a pattern of continuous delay and inaction.

Thank you.